

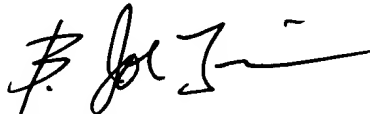
REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants request acknowledgement of a Claim for Priority filed March 7, 2001, a copy of which is enclosed.

The proposed amendments to the specification, abstract and claims are grammatical in nature, and place the Application in better form for issuance. As such, the proposed amendment is merely formal in nature, does not introduce new matter, and does not affect the scope of the claims. Therefore, it is believed that the proposed amendment is permissible under 37 C.F.R. §1.312. Accordingly, approval and entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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April 24, 2006

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